

ALL IN COLOUR - MAKES LEARNING A JOY

Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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PRICE 1/3



THE LAND OF COUNTERPANE

When I was sick and lay abed,
I had two pillows at my head,
And all my toys beside me lay
To keep me happy all the day.

And sometimes for an hour or so
I watched my leaden soldiers go
With different uniforms and drills
Among the bedclothes through the hills.

I was the giant, great and still,
That sits upon the pillow-hill,
And sees before him, dale and plain,
The pleasant land of counterpane.

R. L. Stevenson.



The Sleeping Princess



1. When she slipped quietly away to her bedroom in the Royal Palace, the princess took a closer, excited look at the gift, which the strange old lady in the tower had given her. "She called this a spindle, but I have never seen one before," she said.



2. The princess did not know, of course, that all spinning-wheels were banned in the Kingdom because the wicked Ice Fairy had wished an evil spell that one day she would prick her finger on a spindle and fall asleep. "Oo—my finger!" she suddenly gasped.

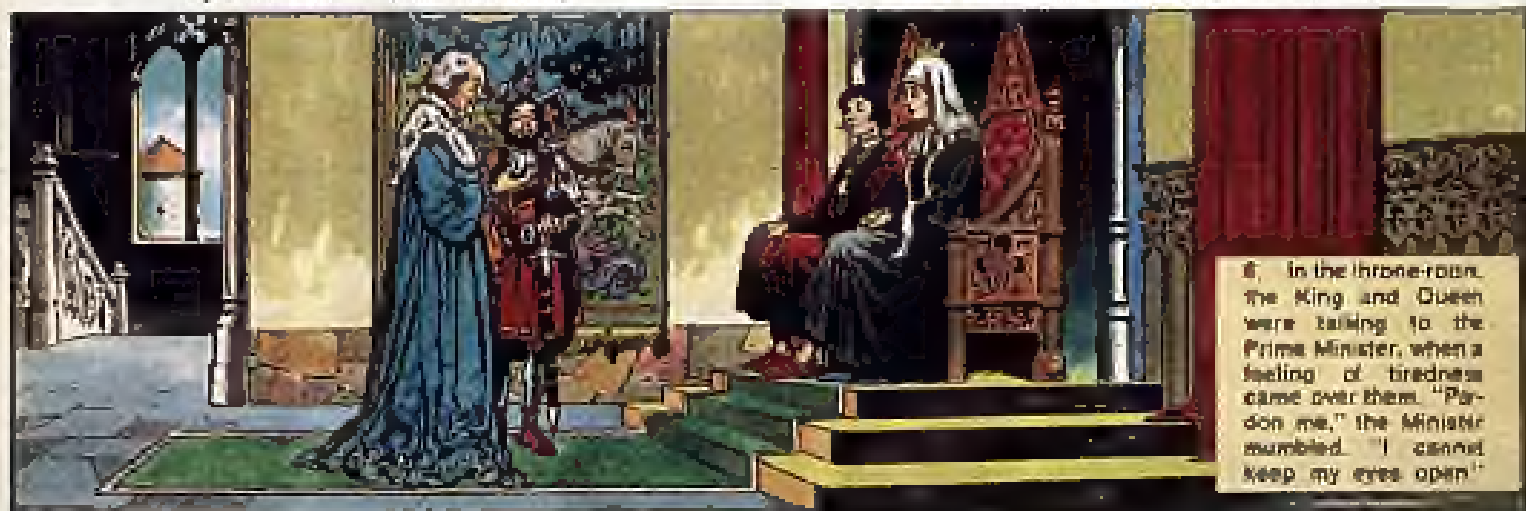


3. And so it came to pass that the curse of the wicked Ice Fairy came true. The princess felt the sharp point of the spindle stick in her finger, and then she began to lose her balance, feeling quite giddy. "Oh dear! What is happening to me?" she said, backing against the bed as she tried to blink her eyes open. "The room seems to have gone dark and I feel sleepy all of a sudden."



4. The dogs barked and there was a clatter as a crowd of people rushed into the room. But before they could reach the princess, she lay on the soft bed and went to sleep.

5. Several tried to get to her, but each of them stopped in mid-stride. All present in the room began to yawn, even the dogs, and their feet seemed as though glued to the floor.



6. In the throne-room, the King and Queen were talking to the Prime Minister, when a feeling of tiredness came over them. "Pardon me," the Minister mumbled. "I cannot keep my eyes open."



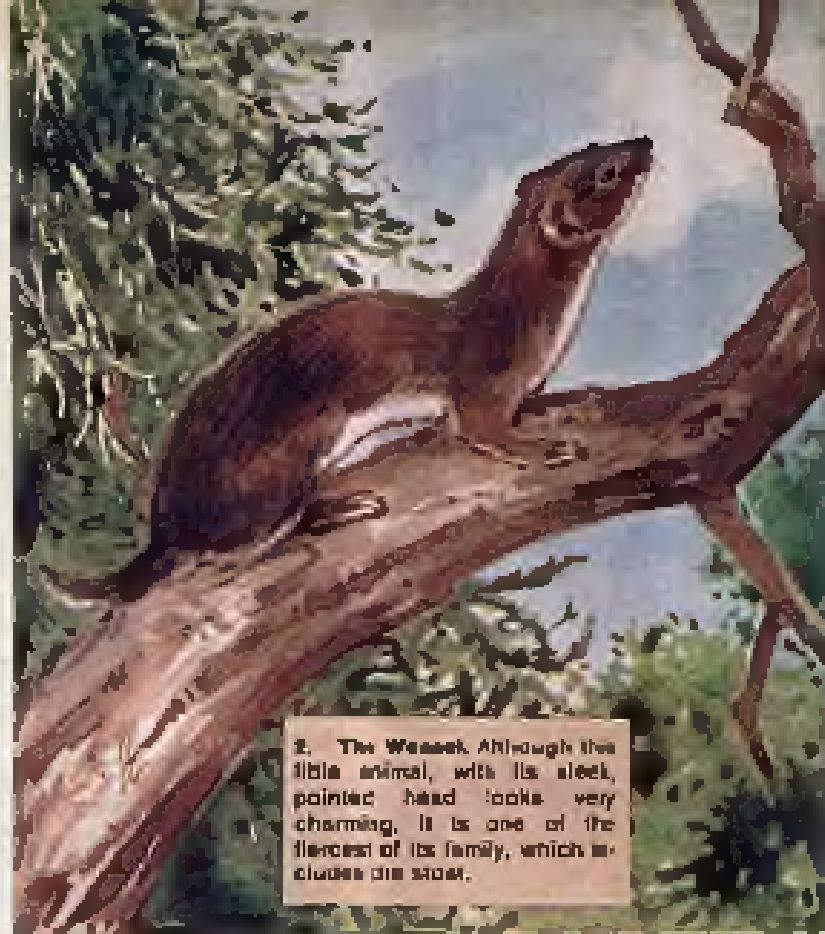
7. It was the same all over the Palace, even in the kitchens, where the Royal cooks and serving-maids were on the point of preparing lunch. They halted what they were doing and fell asleep.

8. Even the young minstrel boy, who played sweet and soothing music, had never soothed anyone off to sleep as quickly as this. The wicked magic was working and the whole Palace became quiet.

What will happen in the sleeping Palace? More of this lovely story next week.



1. The Hare. The animal, bigger than a rabbit and able to run much faster, does not live in a burrow. Their babies (called leverets) are born in a grass shelter above ground.



2. The Weasel. Although the little animal, with its sleek, pointed head looks very charming, it is one of the fiercest of its family, which includes the stoat.



These are our "Allsorts" pages. Every week you can see all sorts of Allsorts. Here, this week, is another collection of wild animals of Europe.

All Sorts of



3. The Fox. With its reddish coat and white-tipped tail, the fox is well-known. —but is not often seen. It likes to come out and feed at night and is clever at hiding itself.



4. The Hedgehog. This prickly creature is rather timid, and likes to prow around looking for insects to eat. When attacked, it can roll itself into a ball of sharp prickles.



3. **The Deer.** Often seen in parks and the gardens of big houses, deer are delightful animals. The male, called a stag, looks very proud with his fine set of antlers.



4. **The Polecat.** About twice as big as a weasel, polecats are believed to be closely related to ferrets. They feed on rabbits, voles and frogs (and chickens when the farmer is not looking).

Wild Animals of Europe



7. **The Grey Squirrel.** It is seen much more often than its cousin, the Red Squirrel. When it is sitting, nibbling at an acorn or a nut, it uses its bushy tail to keep its balance. The grey squirrels which live in our parks will come to humans and take food from them.



6. **The Wild Boar.** You will not see one of these animals running wild in Great Britain any more, but they can be found in France, Spain and other countries of Europe. They have long snouts.



BRER RABBIT

This week: Brer Bear Hunts for Honey. By Barbara Hayes.

NOW one day, when Brer Rabbit had been sitting thinking, he started to feel mighty cross. Mighty cross indeed, he felt.

"Brer Fox and Brer Bear and Brer Wolf really are too bad," thought Brer Rabbit. "All they think about all day long is how they can catch me to turn me into rabbit stew. I wish I could teach each one of them a lesson, really I do."

So when, later on that day, Brer Rabbit saw Brer Bear walking past, Brer Rabbit didn't feel kindly disposed towards him at all.

In fact Brer Rabbit felt like playing a trick on Brer Bear, if he could only get the chance.

Now, with his sharp little eyes, Brer Rabbit noticed that Brer Bear had a sack over his shoulder.

So Brer Rabbit galloped up to the roadside and said in a mighty polite voice:

"Howdy, Brer Bear."

"Howdy," replied Brer Bear.

"How are Mrs. Bear and the family?" asked Brer Rabbit.

"Fair to middling thank you," replied Brer Bear.

Then Brer Rabbit looked at the sack over Brer Bear's shoulder and said, "What have you in that sack, Brer Bear?"

"None of your business," replied Brer Bear.

Of course, that made Brer Rabbit burn to know what was in the sack even more.

"If you tell me what is in the sack, then I will tell you where you can find some honey," said Brer Rabbit.

Of course, Brer Rabbit knew that Brer Bear just loved honey.

"Will you really?" asked Brer Bear.

"Yes, sir!" answered Brer Rabbit.

And Brer Bear thought to himself, "Well, I suppose it won't hurt to tell Brer Rabbit what is in the sack." So then Brer Bear said:

"In the sack are some fish that I caught from the lake this morning. And if you think you are going to have some of them, well, you're not."

Brer Rabbit tried to look innocent.

"I wasn't thinking of taking your fish at all," he said.

But, of course, he was.

"Now tell me about the honey then," said Brer Bear.

"Well, you know that wood surrounded by mountains over there? Well, if you look for the very middle tree, you will find some bees living there and in the tree you will find a hole full of lovely, sweet honey."

Off went Brer Bear at once, but of course, he took his sack with him. So can you guess who followed Brer Bear?—Brer Rabbit, of course.

Now as Brer Rabbit well knew, it is really impossible in a large wood to say which is the middle tree exactly. Every tree seemed to be in the middle of other trees.

Up and down tree after tree went Brer Bear, looking for the honey.

And of course, in the end, he grew tired of carrying the sack of fish with him.

"Phew!" sighed Brer Bear, setting the sack down at the foot of a tree. "I will leave the sack here this time. There is no one about who will take it."

But Brer Bear was wrong. While he was up the tree Brer Rabbit slipped forward and took the sack, fish and all.

"Ha! Ha! Ha! A nice fish supper for me tonight," laughed Brer Rabbit, as he raced off.

But he laughed too loudly.

"Why, youascal!" shouted Brer Bear, starting to rush down the tree.

But Brer Bear tried to hurry too much and he got stuck in the fork of the tree—and by the time he got free, Brer Rabbit was safely away.

Brer Rabbit is a naughty little chap with all his tricks, isn't he?

There will be another story about Brer Rabbit next week.





Fun With Numbers



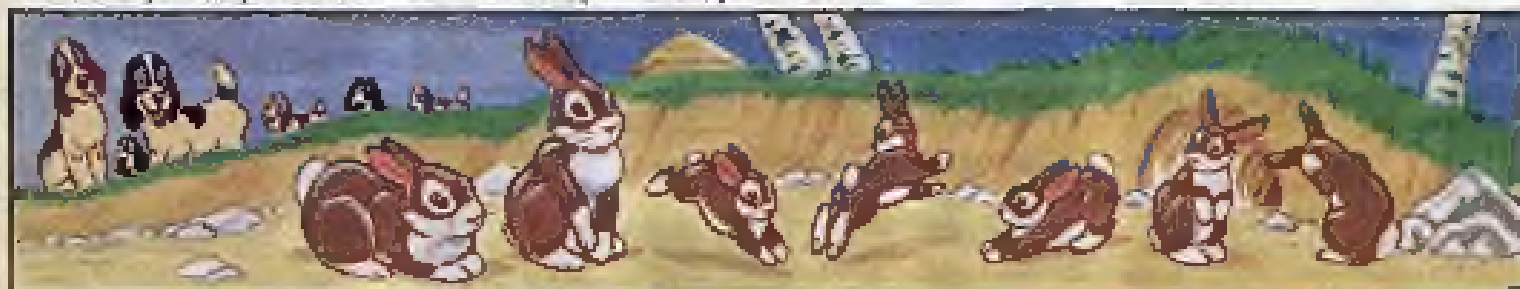
Here is a happy family of dogs having a look at what the rest of the world is doing. Can you answer the counting questions? The answers are given below.



A. They're playing follow my leader. How many grown-up dogs? How many puppies? How many altogether?



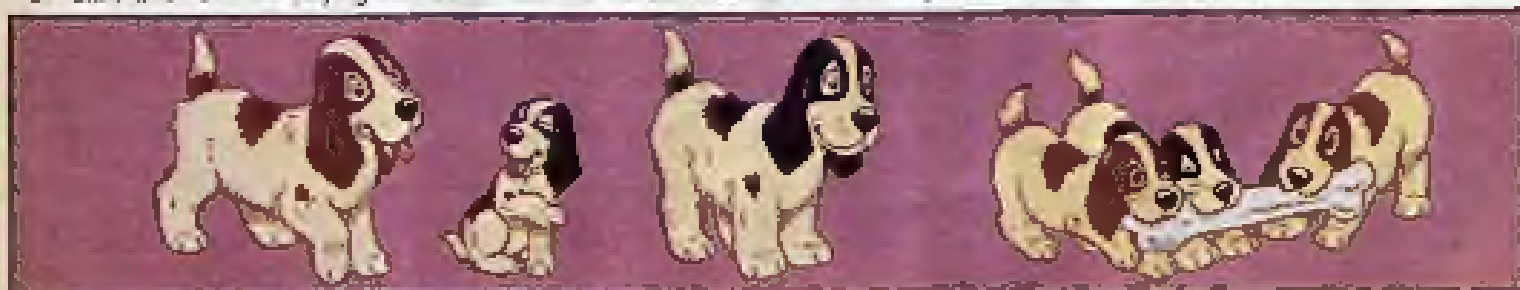
B. At the pond they see some ducks. How many ducks can you count?



C. How many grown-up rabbits are there? How many baby rabbits? How many rabbits altogether?



D. Jane and Peter are playing skittles. Jane knocks three down. How many skittles are still standing?



E. There's only one bone between all the dogs. One half of them can have a bit at one time. How many is that?

Answers: 1. $8 - 3 = 5$ 2. $8 = 4$ 3. $2 = 1 + 1 = 2$ 4. $8 = 4$ 5. $8 = 4 + 4 = 8$



This is a memory test. When you have read the story carefully, turn to page 16 and there you will find some questions. You can have fun trying to answer the questions.

All About Pigs

THIS little girl, whose name is Mary, lives on a farm. Of all the farm animals, she likes her baby pigs the best. Do you know what baby pigs are called? They are called piglets.

Mary knows all about pigs. For example, she knows that people of certain religions think that the pig is "unclean" and unfit for human food. Therefore, they refuse to eat it.

The pig, however, if left in its natural state, is a very clean animal indeed. It will not live in mud and dirt if this can be avoided. Also, although a lot of people think the pig is greedy, it is no more greedy than any other animal.

Mary can tell you that the pig is descended from the wild boar of Europe. You can see a picture of one on page 5. Once upon a time, about 250 years ago, there

were wild boars in England, but there are none left. There are lots of wild boars, though, still at large in Italy and other countries in Europe. They are very fierce animals indeed.

Wild boars have long snouts, for seeking out tasty roots under the soil. Their babies are very attractive creatures and are born with handsome striped coats, but they lose the markings as they grow older.

Another relation of the pig is the warthog, which many people think is the ugliest of all animals. A warthog has a big head, with fierce tusks and a face decorated with warts and knobs. It certainly is not very pretty.

Do you know which animal is the biggest of all the pig family? You might be surprised to learn that it is the hippo-

potamus, which can weigh as much as a ton and a half. Huge and clumsy-looking, the hippo is really a gentle animal if left alone and spends most of its time in the rivers of Africa.

Every part of the pig is useful to us—the meat for food, and the fat, which we call lard, for cooking. Brushes are made out of the bristles, and gloves and handbags are made out of the skins.

The pig grows very fat when it is kept on a farm because, of course, it is being fattened for food. It must be kept in rather a small sty, because if it were allowed to roam around it would become very wild and thin.

Pig-meat is called pork. Mary knows what a male pig and a female pig are called. Do you? They are called a hog and a sow.

Silver Moon

HOPING to cure beautiful Silver Moon, a Chinese princess who had a strange illness and was not able to sleep, the gnomes Pik and Pok had carried out a clever plan. Being two little magic-makers from the Moon, they were able to collect a likeness of Silver Moon and carry it on a silken cloud from China to the far country of India.

There, in a golden palace on the banks of the River Ganges, they floated into the bedroom of Prince Amon, while he was asleep, and put the lovely vision of Silver Moon into his dreams.

In the morning when Prince Amon awoke, his mind was still full of the princess he had dreamed about.

"I must go to her—I have a feeling that she needs me," he said. Which, of course, was just what Pik and Pok wanted him to say.

From a distance, the little magic-makers of the Moon watched as Prince Amon went at once to see his father, a kindly King, who ruled his land wisely and well, and who loved his son more than all the treasures of the Earth.

"My good father," began Prince Amon, "I have come to beg that you will grant me a very great favour."

"What is it?" asked the King. "Do you wish for money or jewels?"

"No, I have no need of such things," said the handsome prince. "I only need



your permission to make a journey to the country they call China."

The King frowned and looked sad.

"My son, ever since you were born, you have been very precious to me," he replied. "For that reason, I made a vow that you would always stay as near to me as possible. Are you restless that you want to leave me? Are you unhappy? Are you bored? Can I offer you some other amusement—a new white horse with a saddle of finest leather, decorated with gold?"

"You have always given me wonderful gifts, father," said Prince Amon, shaking his head. "But the greatest gift of all would be your blessing on my journey to China. Last night, I had a dream. In which it seemed that two blue gnomes from a strange land brought me a vision so lovely that I can hardly describe its beauty. It was a vision of the most beautiful princess I have ever seen. I even know her name, for it came whispering down on the moonbeams coming through the window of my room. Her name is Silver Moon, and I know that I must go to her. She needs me by her side."

"It may be a long and dangerous sort of journey," said the King. "There are mountains and rivers and deserts to cross before China can be reached. You will be frozen by the ice of the snow-covered peaks, drowned by crossing the rivers and burned by the fierce sun of the deserts."

He paused to look at Prince Amon. He saw no fear in the eyes of his son. In fact, he saw only a look that showed his courage and pride.

"Very well," he went on. "You may start your journey to the land of Silver Moon, my son, and may you be well protected and rewarded."

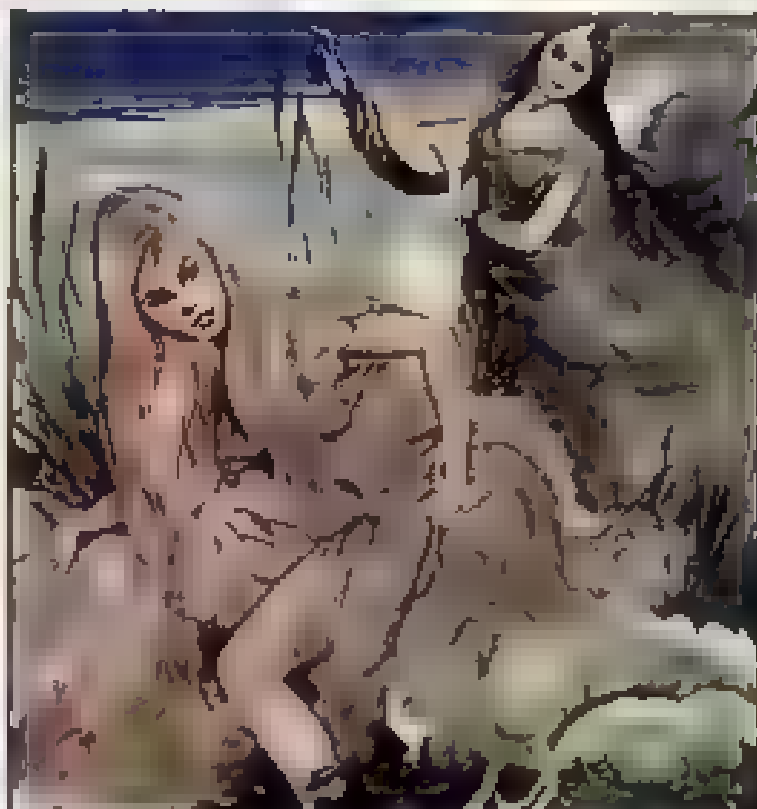
Next week, Prince Amon sets out with Bili and Boli to find Silver Moon.



The Stone Fountain



1 Once upon a time a sweet young water-sprite lived in a clear forest pool. Every day she would see a handsome young woodsman go by on his way to work, and she would wish that she was mortal for the more she looked at him the more she fell in love.



2 But silly creatures must sometimes make mistakes, and when the Queen-sprite found out she was very angry, although she did not show it. "You may marry him on one condition," she said. "You must entice him into your pool."



3 So the next time the woodsman passed, the sprite raised her pool to look so poor and inviting that he took off his boots and stepped into it to refresh himself. He was at once changed into a stone fountain standing in the middle of the water.



4 The water-sprite was heart-broken, and every day came up out of the water to weep and lament over the woodsman, and so bitter was her sobbing that he heard her, even though he was made of stone. But, of course, he could not speak, and all he so



5 The day a passing magician asked the water sprite why she wept and she told him how the magician had quarrelled with the Queen and also his magic was the stronger. So to soothe her he said he would help the sprite.



6 "I can release your woodman," he said, "but to break the spell you too must become mortal and leave your home in the forest. At this the water sprite's heart failed her and she shrank back at the sad thought of leaving the pool."



7 Her beloved pool was the only home she had and though on occasions mortal, she could marry the woodman if she wished, but surely here he had suffered because of his love for her. So she answered, "Because I love him, I agree."



8 So the magician said the words of his spell to release the water sprite and all the while she stood and came to life. The water sprite turned and went sadly into the forest, wandering aimlessly until, with a heavy sigh, she was at home in the strange world.



9 With the words uttered behind her and turning to see the woodman hurrying towards her. "Please," he cried, "don't go away. Never leaving you for what happened indeed. I've fallen deeply in love with you. So you must not leave me."



10 And so it was that the happy water sprite married the handsome woodman and never regretted that once she could have lived for ever, although sometimes, passing the forest pool on her way to take her husband his dinner, she would sigh, but just a little.

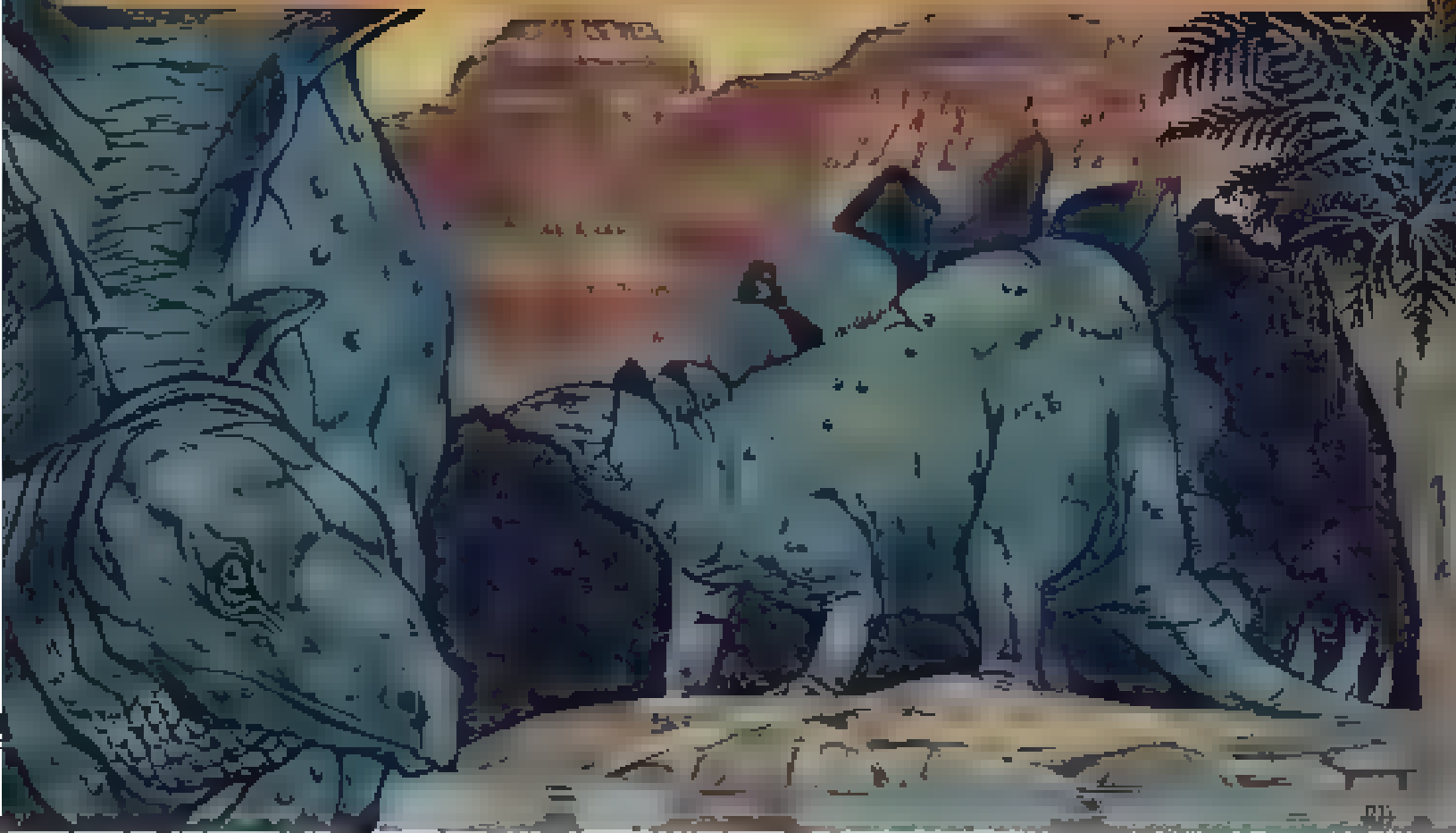


Beautiful Paintings

Do your mummy and daddy like you to visit your grandfather and grandmother? And when they sit with your grandparents always greet you with hugs and kisses? You are sure they do. Well it has always been like that. Grandparents have always

loved their grandchildren very much indeed. The beautiful picture painted by the artist E. Doughty shows you the idea of a quiet family for the summer holidays. On the 24th just look at the loving smiles of the grand parents as they welcome their grandchildren.

Another Prehistoric Monster



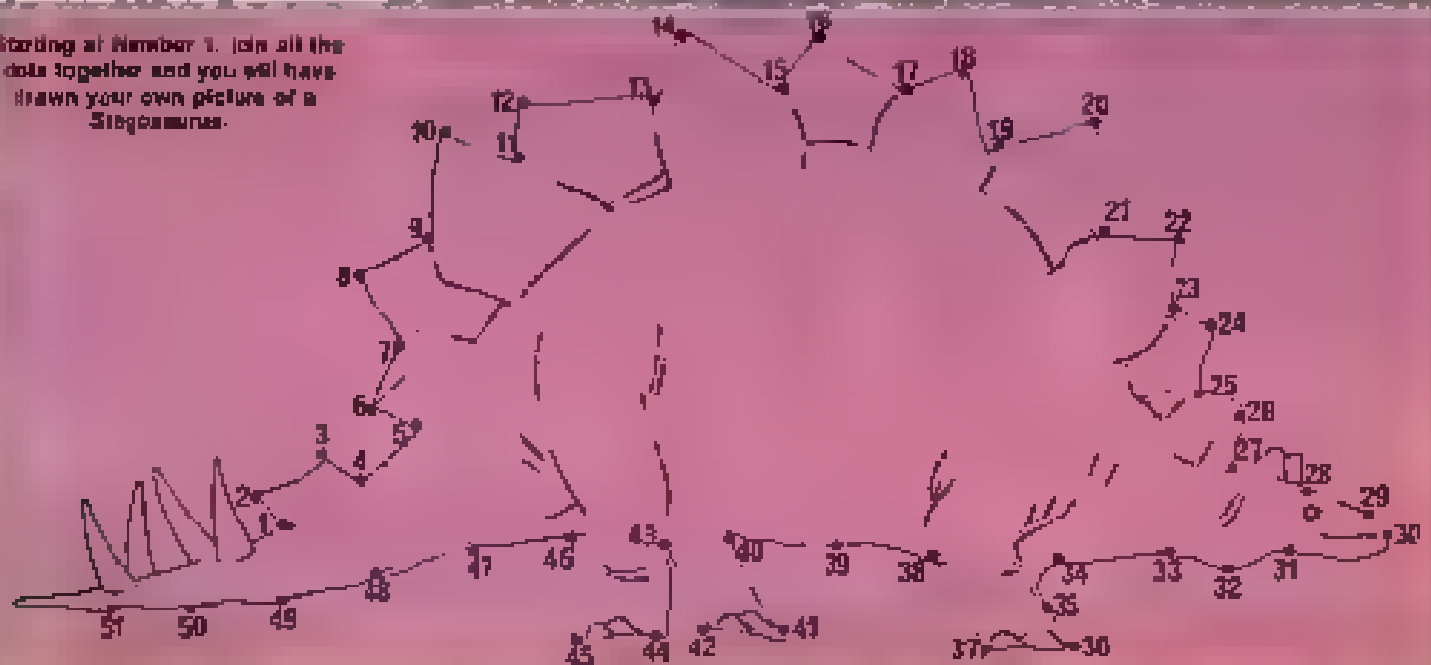
This huge animal once lived on Earth, but it died out many millions of years ago. The name given to the big fellow is Stegosaurus, say 'Steg-uh-saw-rus'. They measured anything from 13 feet to 32 feet long.

It looks a fearsome creature, doesn't it? In fact, the Stegosaurus was a harmless animal. It did not kill other animals for food, and

lived on grasses and leaves. An animal that eats grasses and leaves is called a herbivore, say 'herb-uh-vor'.

The high back of the Stegosaurus was protected by large bony shields, as you can see. Its tail had two pairs of bony spines. It was so heavy that it could not move very fast. If attacked by a fierce monster, however, its sharp spines protected it very well indeed.

Starting at Number 1, join all the dots together and you will have drawn your own picture of a Stegosaurus.



THE TOWN MOUSE

AND THE COUNTRY MOUSE

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would being called Steve. It sounded smarter than Stephanie.

Of course, the Australian mouse had recognised Stephanie because he had been told of her snappy way of talking.

"I loved you because of your — and I know that the other young lady mouse must be Winifred because of her kind face."

Well, after that they were all friends. And they did go back to Winifred's.

Over the chocolate cake the Australian mouse told his story.

"My name is Horace," he said, "but my

Poor Stephanie winced.

"Why do all my relatives turn out to have such awkward names!" she sighed. "If any of my friends tried to call me Digger, they wouldn't stay friends for long, I can tell you."

Then Horace went on.

Your Great Uncle Sidney who went Australia, is our grandfather. Now, apparently before Grandpa Sidney left for Australia he made a promise to Great Auntie Hilda, his sister.

You see, Great Auntie Hilda didn't have any children as Auntie Hilda put all her beautiful rings and necklaces in a strong box and asked Uncle Sidney to hide them in the loft of his cottage. Which was in England, of course, because Uncle Sidney lived in England then.

And Auntie Hilda made Jacko Sidney promise that when any daughters were born into the family he would give them the jewels.

Well, the years went by and Grandpa Sidney went to Australia and forgot all about the box of jewels.

Now as it happened Grandpa Sidney only had sons and they only had sons, so you, Stephanie, and you, Winifred, are the only two girls who have been born into the family for a very long time.

Well, so Grandpa Sidney is beginning to get a bit old, he thought it was time to settle his affairs and he suddenly remembered about the box of jewels.

So he wrote you two from letters written to him by old friends in England, so he has sent me back to England to find the box of jewels.

Winifred and Stephanie were thrilled. How lovely of you to go to all that

trouble!" said Winifred. "I hope you will stay on with me for a holiday while you are here."

But Stephanie just pulled on her gloves and said "Well, fetch me the box then, and I will be able to get back to town in time to order some dresses to match the colours of the jewels."

Horace said, "I'm afraid things aren't so easy as that. Grandpa Sidney is rather old and he couldn't remember exactly where he had hidden the jewels, or even where his cottage was. He only sent this message:

"Tell the girls the cottage wasn't the same as its name and the box was hidden over the gurgles."

So I know about being a mysterious message," snorted Stephanie. "I should call it half-witted myself, but suppose we

Now about the meaning of the message next week.

These are the questions about the last story, page 5. Some of you may already know the answers. But if you don't, try to find them out. Write your answers on the lines below.

1. Why is a pig kept in a rather small house?
2. What is pig-meat called?

Most many parents bought "Once Upon a Time".

you go, have a happy time.





JASON AND THE *Golden Fleece*

JASON, the brave young prince of Greece, had been set three tasks to do before he could ever hope to reach the Golden Fleece. The first task was to tame two great fire-breathing bulls, which could shrivel a man to a burnt cinder with one puff of their flaming breath. The second was to yoke the bulls to a plough and cut furrows into the earth, into which he had to sow a basketful of dragon's teeth. The third task was to fight against a regiment of armed warriors, who would grow suddenly out of the ground wherever the dragon's teeth were sown.

There was really a fourth danger to be overcome at the sacred tree where the precious Golden Fleece hung upon a branch, but Jason did not have any fear of it.

"I am not worried about the dragon that guards the sacred tree," he told Medea, the daughter of the King of Colchis. "I know how to deal with such monsters. But, alas, I do not know how to manage the fire-breathing bulls."

"Do not be afraid of them, Jason," said Princess Medea. "I have a magic ointment, which will stop you from being burned up, and cure you if you chance to be a little scorched."

She put a golden box into his hand, told him to rub the powerful ointment on himself, and to meet her again at midnight.

"Be brave," she added, "and before the break of day, the fiery bulls shall be tamed."

So at midnight, after he had rubbed the magic ointment on himself, Jason met Medea on the marble steps of the King's palace. She gave him a basketful of dragon's teeth, then led him through the quiet streets of the city, into the field where the two bulls were kept.

"There they are, good Jason," said the beautiful young princess. "They are lying in that far corner over there."

Jason let go of Medea's hand and walked boldly forward in the direction she had indicated. At some distance from the bulls, he became aware of four streams of flame, which rose up, then died down and rose up again. These were, of course, caused by the breathing of the bulls as they slept.

As Jason walked nearer, the four fiery streams became stronger. The two bulls had heard his footsteps and were lifting their hot noses to sniff the air. He went a little nearer still, and then each of the bulls made a terrible roaring sound. They jumped to their feet and sheets of flame came flaring out of their nostrils towards Jason.

Their breath scorched the grass in an instant and turned the ground into black powder. But as for Jason himself, the red flames curled round his body without doing him the slightest harm, or even giving him the smallest of burns—thanks to the magic ointment given to him by Medea.

"The flames don't hurt me," he said, in some surprise and relief.

He was ready for the bulls when they came charging at him. Just as the brutes thought themselves sure that they could toss him into the air, Jason caught one of them by the horn and the other by the tail and held them both in a tight grip. In this manner he gripped them and both the bulls were at once tamed. Being enchanted creatures, their magic spells had been broken by the way brave Jason had handled them.

It was now easy for him to yoke the bulls to a plough and drive them over the black earth, cutting it into long furrows.

When this was done, Jason scattered the dragon's teeth into the furrows, covered them over with soil and then stood on the edge of the field, anxious to see what would happen next.

"How long do we have to wait for harvest time?" he asked Medea, who was now standing beside him.

"Not long, I think," said Medea. "But, of course, I do not know exactly, because nobody has ever succeeded in taming the bulls and sowing the dragon's teeth before. However, I have been told many times by my father that when dragon's teeth are sown in the ground, a crop of armed men never fails to spring up from the furrows."

She and Jason waited. The moon was now full in the night sky and in the light of its silver rays they could see the black furrows quite clearly.

"How long do we have to wait?" asked Jason again.

As if in answer, several bright spots appeared on the ground. They glistened in the moonbeams, like sparkling drops of dew. Then there were more and more, and more, until the whole ploughed field was dotted with shining points of light.

At first Jason could not make out what they were, but as he looked closer, and the points of light got bigger, he drew in a deep breath of surprise.

"Armed men—starting to sprout from the ground!" he gasped. "Those shining points that I can see are the steel tips of their spears!"

The spears, shooting straight up from

the earth, grew longer—and then Jason could see that men's shining helmets were beginning to appear also.

The helmets grew farther and farther out of the ground and beneath them could be seen the faces of the armed warriors themselves—strong bearded faces, looking fierce and angry.

In a moment or two, the warriors were out of the ground up to their waists. Each wore a bright breastplate, and in every right hand there was a sword or a spear, and on each left arm a shield.

It took them only a few seconds more to step right out of the ground—and there they were, an army ready for battle. But who were they to fight?

For a while they seemed puzzled. They banged their swords and spears against their shields and looked at one another fiercely.

Then one of them began to shout: "Show us the enemy! Where is the enemy we have been sent out of the ground to fight?"

All took up the same cry. "Show us the enemy! Show us the enemy!" And, of course, it was not long before those in the front line of warriors spotted Jason.

He had drawn his sword and it flashed in the moonlight, catching their eyes.

In a moment all the warriors turned towards Jason and charged with all their might.

"Guard the Golden Fleece!" they were shouting. "Here is the enemy—but he will never take the Golden Fleece!"

How can Jason save himself? More of this wonderful story next week.





The WISE OLD OWL

Knows all the answers

This is the page for learning about things. The Wise Old Owl knows the answers to questions.



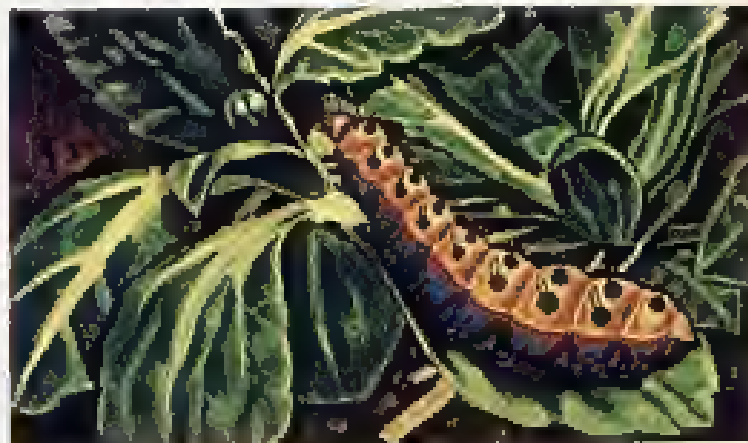
1. How did Buffalo Bill get his name?

"The real name of Buffalo Bill was William Frederick Cody. He was one of the great hunters of wild buffaloes in the old Wild West. At that time many workers were busy building a railway across America, and they needed food. It was William Cody who hunted buffalo for them to provide them with meat. As a result, and because he was such a good hunter, he was given the name of Buffalo Bill. Some years ago, he visited Great Britain with his Wild West Show."



2. Do all birds sing?

"No, they do not. The thrush (seen here) has one of the most beautiful songs of any bird, but some birds, such as pelicans and storks, seem to have no singing voice at all when they are fully grown. And ducks, of course, can only quack."



3. How many legs has a caterpillar?

"A caterpillar usually has sixteen legs, which are arranged in pairs. If you look closely at a caterpillar and watch it moving you will see that it has three pairs at the front of its body, four pairs in the middle and one pair at the end."



4. What animal has headlights?

"Fish that live very deep down in the sea, where it is dark, give out a light from their eyes or bodies, to help them to find their food. This light is called luminous—it glows in the dark like the painted figures on some clock faces."



5. How long does a hen's egg take to hatch?

"If the eggs of a hen are kept warm, either by the hen herself or in a special place, called an incubator, it takes twenty-one days for the baby chick to be formed inside the shell. Then it pops out, as a lovely little curly creature."